

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7773
BILL NUMBER: HB 1657

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 22, 2007
BILL AMENDED: Feb 20, 2007

SUBJECT: Forestry Issues.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Denbo
FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
☒ **DEDICATED**
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) *Deductions:* This bill provides deductions to an individual in determining adjusted gross income (AGI) for a taxable year for (1) expenses incurred by the individual for property taxes imposed on property assessed as native forest land or a forest plantation; (2) expenses incurred by the individual for fees for the management of forests located on property assessed as native forest land or a forest plantation; (3) 50% of the part of federal AGI attributable to a net long-term capital gain (NLTCG) derived from the sale of timber; and (4) charitable contributions of property assessed as native forest land or a forest plantation. The bill provides that the deductions with respect to forest plantation apply only if (1) the classification as forest plantation occurred before July 1, 2007; or (2) if the classification occurred after June 30, 2007, all of the trees that qualify the land for the classification are native trees.

Certain DNR Salaries: The bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to equalize the salaries of district foresters and natural science managers.

Effective Date: (Amended) January 1, 2008.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) This bill will increase the administrative costs of the Department of State Revenue (DOR). The DOR will have to amend the Income Tax forms, procedures, and rules, as well as update computer software. It is estimated that the provisions of this bill can be implemented within the existing level of resources available to the DOR.

Certain DNR Salaries: The bill requires the DNR to equalize certain salaries of district foresters and natural science managers. "District forester" means any position on the state staffing table with a job code of "001LE2" and a description of "Forester Specialist 2". "Natural sciences manager" means any position on

the state staffing table with a job code of "00ENS7" and a description of "Natural Sciences Manager E7".

As of 2/6/07, there were 28 Forest Specialist 2s whose collective salaries and benefits would be **increased resulting in an increase in expenditures by the DNR of \$332,209 in 2008 and \$345,498 in 2009.**

This estimate was based on the average increase between the minimum and maximum salary increases that would have resulted based on the percentage increase between the minimum and maximum salaries increases for Forester Specialist 2s and Natural Sciences Manager E7s at Step 1.

The bill provides that for pay periods beginning after June 30, 2007, the State Personnel Department (SPD) must equalize the salary and wage schedules for the positions of district forester and natural sciences manager so that both positions share the higher of the two wage and salary schedules for these positions existing on April 1, 2007. For pay periods beginning after June 30, 2007, the DNR must increase the wages and salaries of all district foresters and natural sciences managers to bring the wages and salaries into conformity with the salary and wage schedules. (As of 2/6/07, there were no Natural Sciences Manager E7s on the staffing report.)

Explanation of State Revenues: (Revised) The bill allows four new deductions from federal AGI for individuals liable for income tax in Indiana for tax years beginning January 1, 2008. The impact of revenue collections would begin in FY 2009.

Property Tax Paid on Native Forest Land: The first deduction is for property taxes paid on certain land assessed as native forest land or a forest plantation, so long as the individual did not deduct these amounts to arrive at federal AGI. The impact of this provision is indeterminable.

Expenses for Management of Forests: The second deduction is for expenses incurred by the individual for fees for the management of forests located on certain property assessed as native forest land or a forest plantation. The impact of this provision is also indeterminable because the amount of fees that an individual might pay for management of forests is indeterminable.

Net Long-Term Capital Gains (NLTCG): The third deduction is for 50% of any NLTCG realized on the sale of timber included in the individual's federal AGI. To estimate the impact, the following assumptions were employed. NLTCG on timber reported on Form 1040 is the same as the net gain on timber, i.e., there are no offsetting long-term capital losses. Thus, the entire NLTCG on timber is included in federal AGI carried over to IT-40. On average only 5% of timber sale revenue is offset by basis of timber disposed of, i.e. the depletion allowance. The estimate considers the U.S. Department of Forestry report of average timber sales on classified forest land. County income tax assumes rate for Brown County, one that is heavily forested (rate is 1.25%). All timber sales flow through individual tax returns; no sales reported by corporations filing as C-Corps.

Impact of 50% deduction to Indiana AGI for NLTCG due to a disposal of timber on classified forests.		
	Amounts	Units
Number of sales	340	each
Average sale volume	60	MBF
Average price per MBF	\$300	
Average sale revenue	\$18,000	
Total timber revenue	\$6,120,000	
Rev. reduction for depletion	\$306,000	
Total NLTCG	\$5,814,000	
Total reduction in Indiana AGI	\$2,907,000	
Total reduction in state income tax revenue at 3.4%	\$98,838	
Total reduction in county income tax revenue @ 1.25%	\$36,338	
Total reduction in income tax revenue	\$135,176	

Charitable Contribution of Property: The fourth deduction is for the charitable contribution of property assessed as native forest land or forest plantation land. This deduction may be taken to the same extent that the individual was allowed to deduct this contribution under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. The following assumptions were made in determining the estimate for this deduction: donations of land in fee equal 2,000 acres valued at \$2,500. Donations of easements equal 2,000 with a value of \$1,500. No offsetting tax revenue for the sale portion of any bargain sales of land or easements was considered. The Brown County local income tax of 1.25% was used. All donations taken at FMV for long-term capital assets.

Fiscal Impact of Reduction in AGI Equal to Charitable Contribution for Donated Value of Land or Conservation Easement Reported on Form 1040	
	Amounts
Charitable donations of fee land	\$5,000,000
Eased land	\$3,000,000
Total Donations	\$8,000,000
Total Reduction in Indiana AGI	\$8,000,000
Total Reduction in State Income Tax Revenue at 3.4%	\$272,000
Total Reduction in County Income Tax Revenue at 1.25%	\$100,000
Total Reduction in Income Tax Revenue	\$372,000

Total reductions in revenue for the third and fourth deductions equal approximately \$507,000 annually. These deductions would be effective beginning in CY 2008 with a reduction in income tax revenue beginning to FY2009.

Background: Individual AGI Tax collections are deposited 86% in the state General Fund and 14% in the Property Tax Replacement Fund.

Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) sets the test for determining what amount of a deduction may be taken in a taxable year. There is a 50% and 30% test depending on the type of property contributed and the organization to which the property is contributed. The 50% test allows an amount equal to no more than 50% of the individual's federal AGI, while the 30% allows no more than 30% of federal AGI. Section 170 of the IRC also allows the remainder of any contribution above the 50% or 30% limitation to be carried forward for up to 5 years.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DOR, DNR.

Local Agencies Affected: Counties with local option income tax where deductions are claimed.

Information Sources: DNR; W. L. Hoover, FNR, Purdue.

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